

REMARKS

Applicants respond to the Examiner's remarks using the paragraph numbering of the office action. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to delete the terms "human" and "mature" as discussed below. Claim 17 has been cancelled. Claim 18 has been amended to change dependency and delete a duplicate recitation of SEQ ID NOS. Claim 24 has been amended to specify that the humanized heavy chain comprises a variable region to make it clear that such a variable region is not necessarily the only component of a humanized heavy chain (see, e.g., p.12, lines 8-18). Claim 25 has been amended to change "at least" to "more than" in response to the Examiner's suggestion. All of these amendments are made for purposes of expediting allowance of subject matter, and should not be construed as acquiescence in any ground of rejection. Applicants reserve the right to reinstate previous claims for purposes of appeal should the present amendment not result in placing the condition in condition for allowance.

3. The objection to the specification for alleged introduction of new matter has been addressed by filing a petition on January 20, 2006.

4-6. Claims 17-and 21-23 stand rejection for alleged lack of written description and enablement. Applicants disagree with the rejection for reasons previously given. However, because other claims appear to be close to allowance, applicants have cancelled claim 17. Claims 21-23 were rejected through their dependence from claim 17, and thus should free of the rejection in view of the cancellation of claim 17.

7. Claims 14-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph on the basis that specification allegedly does not support recitation of "the mature light chain variable region" of the mouse in claims 14, 15 and 17. Applicants maintain their position for the reasons previously given but have nevertheless deleted the word "mature" from claims 14 and 15 because applicants do not wish to delay allowance over an issue that is not material to claim scope.

Appl. No. 09/992,524
Amdt. dated May 30, 2006
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1644

PATENT

Claims 14 and 15 are directed to humanized antibodies not the mouse AF2 antibody. Thus, whether the mouse AF2 antibody is characterized by sequences including or without the signal sequence does not affect the nature of the claimed humanized antibodies.

8-9. As the Examiner acknowledges, applicants have previously provided a terminal disclaimer over US 6,329,511 and been charged the fee, but the terminal disclaimer has apparently been misplaced in the PTO. An additional copy **is provided**.

10-11. Claims 13-23 and 25 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph on the basis that the specification allegedly does not support the recitation of human IFN γ in claims 14 and 15 and at least 80% pure by weight in claim 25. In reply, the recitation of "human" has been deleted from claim 14 and 15 and "at least" has been changed to "more than" in claim 25.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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